

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01146 231440Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00
OMB-01 SY-05 OPR-02 SCS-06 CA-01 /091 W
-----108051 231936Z /45
R 231009Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8897

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1146

FOLLOWING CABLE SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA MADRAS
FROM BOMBAY JAN 20, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0188

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IN
SUBJECT: GOM STAFF STRIKE: JANUARY 24 "MAHARASHTRA BANDH"

REF: BOMBAY 0131

1. WHILE THE STRIKE ENTERED THE THIRTY-EIGHTH DAY, JANUARY 20,
(THUS BREAKING THE 37-DAY RECORD IN 1975), PREPARATIONS ARE BEING
MADE FOR THE PROPOSED "MAHARASHTRA BANDH" ON JANUARY 24. IN AN
ATTEMPT TO BOOST THE STRIKERS' MORALE, DAILY PUBLIC MEETINGS UNTIL
THE BANDH BSY HAVE BEEN PLANNED AT VARIOUS PLACES IN THE STATE.
THOSE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BANDH ARE APPROXIMATELY
FOUR MILLION MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT (BEST), HOTEL, BANK, INSURANCE,
TEXTILE AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL WORKERS. (ESSENTIAL SERVICES LIKE
HOSPITALS AND AMBULANCES, WATER SUPPLY AND FIRE BRIGADES ARE
EXEMPTED). RELIABLE LABOR SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT SURBURBAN
RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ARE NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE BANDH. (ALTHOUGH
THE RAILWAY UNIONS SYMPATHIZE WITH THE STRIKERS, WE UNDERSTAND
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THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BANDH, WHICH IS ONLY
A LOCAL AND NOT REPEAT NOT AN ALL-INDIA ISSUE.)

2. VERY SURPRISEINGLY, MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY SPEAKER AND
VETERAN CONGRESS LEADER D.S. DESAI RESIGNED BOTH HIS
LEGISLATIVE POSITION AS WELL AS CONGRESS PARTY MEMBERSHIP ON
JANUARY 19 AND CAME OUT OPENING IN SUPPORT OF THE STRIKERS. THIS

COULD FURTHER BOOST THE STRIKERS' MORALE CONSIDERING DESAI'S
LONG INNINGS IN THE GOVERNMENT AS A SENIOR CABINET MEMBER.

3. STRIKE LEADER KARNIK TOLD US THAT "THE STRIKERS ARE KEEN THAT
GOM SEES WISDOM AND SETTLES THE DISPUTE BEFORE JANUARY 24,
BUT SUCH A POSSIBILITY IS BLEAK." COURTNEY UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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